to the party concerned. The Member submitted that some such procedure might be followed here. Defects might be pointed out by the department to the procedure on the ground that the number of Sub-Registrars might have to be cut down. But what should be remembered was that a good deal of retrenchment might be effected by the proposal made.

The next point for consideration was whether men of requisite capacity and character could be found in Travancore to be made Notaries Public. The opinion of the Member was in the affirmative, especially in view of the fact that suitable men had been found to serve as Judges in the Panchayat Courts and Members of Town Improvement Committees. There were hundreds of young men who, after passing the School Leaving or School Final Examinations, had also secured a fair grounding in Registration and Stamp Laws and procedure in transactions connected with the transfer of property. If an examination were held in those and allied subjects and a certificate issued, that would be a sufficient qualification for the business of conveyancing. In conclusion, the Member emphatically prayed for some such system as he recommended being introduced as a safeguard against the evils mentioned by him.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

(1) Agriculture.

49. Necessity for holding an annual Agricultural Exhibition at Nagercoil for the benefit of the ryots of Nanjanad.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that Nanjanad was an agricultural centre and that different varieties of paddy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, yams, oilseeds, etc., were largely produced there; but the ryots were quite indifferent to the importance attaching to the selection of suitable seeds for the different kinds of soil and the manure that suited them and the different methods of cultivation. The ryots could be made to realize the value of scientific methods only when they were made aware of the out-turn obtained in the advanced countries where improved methods of cultivation were adopted. In the Member's opinion, the easiest way of imparting agricultural knowledge to the ryot population was by the holding of an annual Agricultural Exhibition and instructing the ryots on the various agricultural subjects by means of lectures in the Exhibition hall by competent persons. The Member added that an annual Agricultural Exhibition was held at Nagercoil about 20 years ago and prayed that Government might be pleased to revive it by holding one at Nagercoil with a view to enlighten the agricultural classes on matters affecting their best interests.

Dewan's reply.—In other parts of Travancore such as Oachira, Omallur and Muvattupuzha, the people are organising and conducting such Exhibitions on their own initiative. The Government help the movement by giving a grant and in other ways. The Government will be very glad to render similar help, if the people of Nagercoil also organise such Exhibitions. It might not be possible for the Government themselves to organise Exhibitions.

50. Suggestions for the improvement of Agriculture in the State.

Mr. S. Natarajaperumal Pillai (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that the industrial regeneration of the country was one of the important problems that had to be solved, that agriculture was the main industry of the State as it was followed by about two-thirds of the people and that, therefore, Government should render all possible assistance for its development. Improvement in agriculture could be effected both by *intensive* and *extensive* cultivation. The difficulties in the way of *extensive* cultivation were (1) the policy till recently followed of allowing registry of vast areas of land in

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the names of foreigners, (2) the present policy of the Forest Department in including extensive cultivable tracts in the Reserves and not opening them for registration and (3) the enhanced rate of *tharavila*. A sympathetic consideration of the two latter causes would considerably help the cause of *extensive* cultivation. *Intensive* cultivation could be carried on only on approved scientific lines. The creation of the Agricultural Department was a measure in the right direction for which the people were grateful to Government. Though the work of the department had been the introduction of new methods in scientific agriculture, there were directions in which it could work with greater benefit to the people; and those were (1) research, (2) demonstration and (3) propagandism. The Government should not be actuated by commercial ideas in agricultural work. He then observed that the great difficulty of the department was lack of adequate funds. More money should be placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries. The dissemination of agricultural knowledge was now done by lectures and by the publication of bulletins, but they did not go far into the masses of the agricultural population. The masses would be best served by practical demonstration of scientific processes and modern methods of agricultural operations in Demonstration Farms and by the regular holding of Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions in important centres of the State. At present, the Government were giving a grant of about Rs. 100 for the Exhibitions organised by the people. That was not sufficient. At least, half the cost of such Exhibitions should be borne by the State.

The Member then submitted that the first step to be taken was to organise a well-thought-out scheme of Agricultural Education. There should be one Central Agricultural School at Trivandrum or some other suitable centre to train teachers of Agricultural Schools which should be started in the mofussil and which should be Agricultural Village Schools with farms attached to them. The course of instruction should be for five years. Another alternative suggested by the Member was that the Agricultural Village Schools might be amalgamated with the existing Elementary Schools of the locality. Touching the question of the ways and means of providing more funds at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Member suggested that the necessary amount could be diverted from the Sinking Fund and invested in the development of agriculture and other industries. No industry could be promoted without State aid. Further, when any State aid was given, it would bear interest and thus the amount locked up in the Sinking Fund would become productive and would help enterprising men to start industries. To have capital stored up in Government treasuries and allow it to lie unused was false economy.

Coming to the question of agricultural loans, the Member complained of the vexatious delays in the grant of loans and observed that the cause of the long delays was due to the fact that the granting of the loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation was entrusted to the already over-worked Revenue officers like the Tahsildar. In two respects the law was defective. In the first place, under section 2, loans might be granted "for the purpose of making any agricultural improvement." The phrase "agricultural improvement" was defined to mean "works which add to the letting value of garden and dry land as well as wet lands," "construction of wells, tanks and other works for the storage, supply or distribution of water for the purpose of agriculture" and "reclamation, clearance, enclosure, or permanent improvement of land for agricultural purposes, &c." General improvements of the land such as manuring, tillage, cultivation of occasional crops, purchase of livestock, implements, manures, &c., were not included in the purview of the explanation and so a good deal of benefit which would have accrued to the ryot was now being denied to him because of the defect pointed out by him. What he submitted was that loans under the Regulation might be made available for *all agricultural purposes* and that Government might insist on the money being really spent on agriculture. The second defect was that the power of the Dewan Peishkar who, under the Regulation, was authorised to grant loans, extended only up to a money limit of Rs. 250. That was a very poor sum insufficient for any substantial improvement to be made in agriculture. The maximum limit for the sanctioning

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authority should be Rs. 1,000 and the Dewan should be invested with the power of granting loans up to Rs. 10,000. As for the dilatoriness and delay of the Tahsildars in disposing of loan applications, they were irremediable so long as the Tahsildars had the power. The most useful course would be, the Member said, to invest the Director of Agriculture with powers to grant loans. If necessary, the Government might depute a competent Revenue Officer of the grade of a Deputy Tahsildar to help the Director in disposing of loan applications.

The next want of the Travancore ryot was *water*. Travancore with vast areas available for cultivation was importing every year paddy and rice to the value of Rs. 1,30,00,000. Among the wants which stood in the way of enlarging the area under paddy, water occupied a prominent place. Trivandrum taluk abounded in irrigation tanks, most of which had gone into disrepair and were in a deplorable and useless condition. If those tanks were put in thorough order by the Government, they would be of incalculable help to the agricultural population. He quoted also the opinion of the Director of Agriculture to the same effect and suggested the formation of Taluk and Village Boards for undertaking the work described above, such Boards being composed of the Tahsildar, the local Agricultural and P. W. D. Officers, and 3 non-official nominated and 3 non-official elected Members. The amount required by the Board might be found partly from the provision under "Irrigation" in the D. P. W. Budget and partly from the people by the levy of a cess. In conclusion, the Member added that education, sanitation and many other important works could be efficiently controlled and carried on by the Taluk Boards.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. Difficulties experienced by the ryots of South Travancore in the matter of agricultural facilities.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavancode taluk) said that 98 per cent of the people of the taluk depended entirely on agriculture, and that the Kuzhithurai river which ran through the taluk did not help the people in the matter of cultivation, as the level of the river was much below the level of the lands. On the other hand, the high floods in the river proved injurious to cultivation in the rainy season. There were about 750 *puravu* tanks and certain canals in the taluk and the people depended on them for the supply of water for cultivation.

The first point, therefore, to which the Member invited the attention of the Government was the unsatisfactory condition of the tanks in the taluk. The maintenance and repair of such tanks was being attended to by the Government from a very long time and a portion of the expenditure was being realised from the ryots. In 1057, the then Dewan, Mr. Ramaiengar, C. S. I., ordered that provision should be made in the P. W. D. Budget for cutting a new channel from Kodayar at Thripparappu for irrigating parts of the Vilavancode taluk. But nothing was done in the matter. In pursuance of the policy of the Government formulated in 1062 for improving irrigation throughout the State, a sum of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned in that year for irrigation works in the Vilavancode taluk and the work was ordered to be executed through the Dewan Peishkar of Padmanabhapuram. A few tanks were improved with the above funds.

It was at that juncture that the works connected with the Pechippara Dam were taken in hand. There was a proposal at the time to cut the Right Bank Channel for the benefit of the ryots of the Vilavancode taluk. The taluk was not benefited by the general policy of 1062 and nothing further was done in respect of irrigation works. The Pechippara Dam was completed and water was diverted through the Left Bank Channel. The works started in connection with the Right Bank Channel were stopped and the reason urged was that the Government wanted to see whether the water in the Reservoir would be sufficient to justify the opening of the proposed Right Bank Channel. The Pechippara Dam was, therefore, of no use to the people of the taluk. The urgent necessity of restoring the tanks in the taluk to afford facilities for cultivation had been repeatedly brought before Government by the Members of the taluk at the fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, tenth and twelfth sessions of the Assembly. It was stated in reply that the Chief Engineer had completed the investigation of the question but that his

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